



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: December 11, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:35 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, Michael Gordon, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Tycho Nightingale, Scott Smith, Laura Swan.

Members Missing: Aravind Basavapathruni, Ky Bertoli, Chuck Giroux.

Members of the Public: None.

1. Public Comments.

There were no public comments

2. Administration.

Howard Muise noted that Scott Smith and Melissa Laube had been reappointed to four-year terms.

TAC members approved the minutes of November 13.

Muise noted two items of correspondence: a letter from TAC in support of the Town's request for funding to develop a planning and visioning study for the Minuteman Bikeway, and a review of the Traffic Impact Statement for the Apothca Marijuana Dispensary.

Muise distributed the individual action list and active projects list.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on agenda).

Wayne Chouinard noted that DPW had training on the pavement management system and will be working on next year's road plan in the next couple of weeks. He noted that there are some locations that need to be repainted. He met with residents at Appleton/Wollaston/Virginia to talk about the potential for an all-way stop sign at the resident's request.

Chouinard noted the Town opened the bid for construction of the bike path improvements at Lake Street. The Town will likely have everything ordered and ready to install by Summer 2020. The Town will also be installing a catch basin on the bike path near Lake Street this week to help with drainage.

Daniel Amstutz noted that the Town has ended the police detail on the bus lane. Amstutz and Corey Rateau will look at potentially adding signage to divert traffic from Boulevard Road but keeping it open to local traffic.

Amstutz said that the Town did interviews with the four proposals for the Sustainable Transportation Plan. The Town will likely make a decision within the week, and will start to think about the public outreach strategies that will go into the plan.

Amstutz gave an update on the Arlington Center sidewalk project, which has collected public comments. Most of the comments were related to Broadway Plaza, which the Town will need to follow up on.

Amstutz noted the Department of Planning & Community Development is applying for CPA funds for a planning study of the Minuteman Bikeway. Muise has provided a support letter for the application on behalf of TAC. The Town received a number of support letters for the project, and recently submitted the application that was due earlier in December.

Amstutz noted the Town will be moving the MBTA Route 87 layover on December 16, with the MBTA to install signage this weekend.

Amstutz said that the Town worked with an urban policy class at BU, and will share final reports once he receives them.

Rateau noted that he has been working to get parking officers new equipment. He has also been working a lot with Apothca regarding traffic management at the proposed marijuana dispensary. He is also working to get funding for a public driving and safety class.

4. Discussion: TAC Social.

Muise noted that he could not reserve the venue for the January meeting, so will try to reschedule it for after the February or March meeting.

5. 2020 Meeting Dates.

The November meeting will need to be moved from November 11 since that is a holiday. Amstutz will check whether the room would be open on November 10, November 12, or November 18.

6. Update/Discussion: Parking and Traffic Direction on Bartlett Avenue.

Amstutz will share the proposed changes to the proponents to get their feedback and to ask if they could share it with other neighborhood members to get feedback. Chouinard suggested considering odd/even parking as an alternative. Amstutz noted that there could be an opportunity to consider that on a town wide basis in the Sustainable Transportation Plan.

7. Update: Appleton Street at Park Ave.

Muise shared a summary of the traffic counts. This information could be fed into an analysis of whether a signal could work. It could also be used to change the signal timing at Florence St to add more green time for Florence St traffic, creating more gaps in traffic on Park Ave. Muise will request the Florence St. signal timing change – Chouinard will send Maxtutis the signal timing plan to help create the recommendation.

8. Update: Crosswalk on Grove Street.

Laube summarized their observations in a memo. TAC will wait to make recommendations until DPW plans are more formalized. Laura Swan will reach out to the AHS principal to try to understand more about when and why people are crossing.

9. Update: One Way Signage on Victoria Road.

Amstutz and Rateau will revisit this and install signage.

10. Update: Crosswalk on Academy at Maple.

Rateau is waiting for a period with good weather to get volume counts and measure speeds.

11. Vote: Pedestrian Flags at Bates Rd @ Raleigh St.

Rateau and Swan will get prices to order new flags. Swan said that retroreflectivity tape could be added for about \$0.60 per flag, which would be added manually for each.

12. Update: Wellesley Rd One-Way

Smith summarized observations related to Wellesley Road, noting that there are no sidewalks but that there is a high volume of pedestrian activity. Cars use Wellesley Road to get to the Thompson School, and the residents requested making it one-way away from the school. Smith recommended short-term measures including improving pedestrian access with crosswalks and stop bars, installing edge lines to narrow the space for vehicular travel, and educating students on pedestrian safety. Smith also recommended longer term improvements, including adding a sidewalk on Wellesley Road and improving pedestrian accommodation on River Street. Smith and Swan will do some resident outreach, and then will bring this back to TAC In the next few months.

13. New Work: Apothca Marijuana Dispensary.

Amstutz said that the ARB asked TAC to look at the Transportation Impact Statement provided by Apothca's engineer. Maxtutis summarized the review, noting that there were some discrepancies in the numbers and that there may be some challenges with parking and the volume of trip generation. Rateau noted that other cities require satellite parking, with shuttles to the site.

14. Diggins raised a concern about some of the marked crosswalks in town being slippery when wet, e.g., in front of Town Hall.

There being no further business, Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.